

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett

County Executive

March 28, 2012

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Environmental Protection

Ms. Daphne Pee, Co-Chair Water Quality Advisory Group 255 Rockville Pike, Suite 120 Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Ms. Pee:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding forest protection and reforestation in the Anacostia watershed. Montgomery County is committed to exploring every option for watershed restoration and reforestation in the Anacostia. Currently, the County is developing a project management plan with the USACE to complete the Anacostia River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. This study will assess and design restoration opportunities identified in the Anacostia Restoration Plan (ARP). The project opportunities and possible enhancements identified through the ARP will help the County meet MS4 Permit wasteload allocations and trash reduction requirements, as well as contribute toward the countywide impervious area restoration goal. The primary focus will be stream restoration, riparian and upland reforestation, and wetland creation or restoration.

In addition, the State has completed multi-faceted mitigation of the environmental impacts of the ICC, including stream restoration, wetland creation, additional water quality and stormwater management, and reforestation. The State explored every opportunity for reforestation in the watersheds where forest loss occurred, but had to resort to planting within the County, but outside the affected watersheds. Mitigation efforts prioritized the reforestation of upland headwater streams and riparian buffers.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to my attention. I appreciate your support and insight into county water quality concerns. For additional information, contact Pam Parker at 240-777-7758 or Pamela.Parker@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Isiah Leggett County Executive

cc: Robert G. Hoyt, Director, Department of Environmental Protection